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LETTER DATED 22 JULY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I wish to transmit to you herewith a study prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq entitled "The Sanctions Committee - working procedures and economic and humanitarian impact of the sanctions on Iraq".

I should be grateful if you would have this letter, together with its annex, the above-mentioned study, circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Abd al-Amir AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

THE SANCTIONS COMMITTEE - WORKING PROCEDURES AND ECONOMIC AND HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF THE SANCTIONS ON IRAQ

Introduction

Despite Iraq's compliance with the Security Council resolutions and the fact that the grounds for the issuance of Security Council resolution 661, which imposed comprehensive economic sanctions on Iraq, have ceased to exist, the Sanctions Committee, which is controlled by the dominant States in the Security Council, refuses to ease those sanctions, thereby ignoring the exceptions contained in Security Council resolution 687 (1991) relating to approval for the satisfaction of Iraq's basic civilian and humanitarian needs.

The purpose of this study is to present a succinct description of the Sanctions Committee and its operation and to provide concrete examples of that operation and its effects on the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people.

The present study comprises three chapters: Chapter I, an introduction to the Sanctions Committee and its procedures, with a commentary on the nature of the Commission's work; Chapter II, a description of the obstacles which the Commission, by virtue of its procedures, places in the way of the satisfaction of Iraq's humanitarian needs; and Chapter III, the economic and humanitarian impact of the embargo and the sanctions.

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I. The Sanctions Committee and its procedures

1. The Sanctions Committee

Security Council resolution 661 (1990) of 6 August 1990, issued pursuant to Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, imposed a total embargo on all exports from Iraq and the import into Iraq of commodities and services as well as all related financial transactions with the exception of supplies intended strictly for medical purposes and foodstuffs.

A committee of all the permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council was established by the resolution in order to supervise the measures taken under the embargo imposed by the resolution and issue recommendations and letters concerning exceptions.

2. The working procedures of the Sanctions Committee

(a) Resolutions

The operation of the Committee is based on the principle of unanimity in the issuance of resolutions; in other words, each of its 15 members has the right of veto with respect to any decision concerning approval of the importation by Iraq of items coming under the heading of humanitarian needs.

The Committee's proceedings are conducted behind closed doors, only its members being permitted to attend its meetings. Moreover, it is the Committee itself that determines its agenda and procedures. The Committee has not established any procedural rules to govern its operation; rather, such procedures are determined on the basis of the matters and requests that come before the Committee. What is more, there are no fixed times for the Committee's meetings.

(b) Submission of applications

In the matter of obtaining approvals, the Committee deals with Governments only: i.e., the issuing State submits a copy of the proposed contract between the Iraqi side and the issuing side and requests the approval of the Sanctions Committee through the State's Mission to the United Nations. The Sanctions Committee then discusses the application.

If any member of the Committee does not approve the application, the Committee resumes the discussion of it after requesting more information and clarifications. In some cases the Committee modifies the nature of the application before issuing its final approval. This process is very time-consuming.

3. Remarks on the operation of the Committee

(1) This method of handling applications relating to the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people blatantly ignores the urgent and imperative nature of those needs by subjecting them to additional discussion and making requests for information and clarifications, the basic objective being to procrastinate in acceding to strictly humanitarian requests. Furthermore, nothing requires the Committee to hold a meeting in the event of an urgent request for an item coming under the humanitarian, civilian needs of the Iraqi people.

(2) The system of voting on resolutions (unanimity) provides an opportunity for any member of the Committee to block the approval of any application on the basis of well-known political motives, devising arguments and pretexts in order to hinder the issuance of the approval decision.

This means that any approval hinges basically on the position of the three permanent members (France, Great Britain and the United States), which, as we know, deal with the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people on the basis of political objectives which are well known, thus paralysing the work of the Committee.

(3) The Committee has excluded from its meetings and discussions the party that is fundamentally concerned by these applications and has the primary interest in the Committee's proceedings, namely Iraq, and even participation by Iraq in order that it might be consulted and that its clarifications and explanations might be heard in connection with any item for which approval is being delayed.

It is extremely important that there should be a representative of Iraq on the Committee in order to accelerate the approval procedure and limit the procrastination to which many of the applications submitted to the Committee are subject.

However, the purpose of barring the party concerned from the discussions is clear and simply reveals political motives dictated by the States that control the Security Council and bearing no relation to the pressing humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people.

II. Obstacles placed by the Committee in the way of the satisfaction of civilian humanitarian needs

Many members of the Sanctions Committee seek to put forward excuses and justifications in order to hinder compliance with civilian humanitarian requests submitted on behalf of Iraq, thus ignoring the most elementary humanitarian considerations and even the resolutions of the Security Council itself and the observations of the missions and organizations which were under the supervision of the United Nations, the Red Cross or other humanitarian organizations.

It is clear from the meetings and debates of the Sanctions Committee that it is the representatives of three States (France, Great Britain and the United States) who in most cases attempt to create such obstacles and block any attempt to provide humanitarian aid to Iraq.

In September 1990, the United States and British representatives objected to a proposal submitted by the representative of Yemen that the Office of the Legal Counsel in the United Nations should interpret humanitarian conditions and state whether they apply to the situation of the Iraqi civilian population, so as to enable the Committee to examine the applications submitted to it in the light of those considerations and handle requests for the supply of drugs and foodstuffs to the civilian population.

The purpose of the American and British objection was to limit interpretation to the Security Council and operate on the basis of an extremely narrow interpretation in keeping with the scheming intentions of the three permanent members, with respect to the Iraqi civilian population. During that period there were a number of actions that were quite obvious, showing a blatant disregard for the civilian humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people as well as nationals of other countries that was incompatible even with the unfair provisions contained in the resolutions of the Security Council itself. On 7 September 1990 the United States representative, backed by the Western members, objected to a request by Bulgaria for permission for a ship carrying a load of baby food to sail to Iraq on the grounds that the food might be used by adults.

On 10 September 1990 the three permanent members blocked an Indian request to send a vessel laden with foodstuffs to its nationals in Iraq and Kuwait on the pretext of the need for consultations. Similar requests by Yugoslavia and Sri Lanka were obstructed in like manner and their approval was made contingent upon the verification of humanitarian conditions, while the same delegates obstructed the definition of the scope of those humanitarian conditions and their application to the case of the Iraqi civilian population.

Indeed, these practices took on a strange aspect indeed when the United States representative requested that an examination should be made of reports that non-governmental humanitarian organizations had sent foodstuffs from Jordan to Iraq - as if there were some crime in that.

The Committee did not decide that those conditions applied to the case of the Iraqi population until 22 March 1991, when the shortage of food and drugs and other civilian humanitarian needs became critical, with grave consequences in the social and economic spheres, especially for certain segments of the population, such as children, pregnant women and the elderly, and the poorer segments and even middle-class segments, which became poor as a result of the limitation of their income over against the rapidly increasing rate of inflation.

The following are examples of requests for humanitarian items used by strictly civilian sectors and their rejection by the Committee or a delay in accepting them on the basis of groundless, illogical excuses.

1. Denial on the pretext of dual use

In a world which abounds in advanced technology, it is always possible to substitute items and use them in more than one way, and it might be claimed that a great number of raw materials or semi-finished or finished products are being used in that manner. Yet such a theoretical possibility should not be arbitrarily employed to reject an application submitted on behalf of an Iraqi authority to which some members of the Committee do not wish to accede, in order to increase the pressure of the embargo. The Committee has used arguments such as this more than once to deny basic requests for foodstuffs, agricultural pesticides and other items. This is a measure to prevent compliance with requests relating to the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people, as illustrated by the following examples:

(a) The Netherlands submitted a request at a meeting of the Sanctions Committee (67) held on 27 March 1992 for permission for the AK20 Company to export an NCR medical computer together with a keyboard, monitor and computer accessories to the Iraq Chemicals Company. This equipment is used solely for haematological studies and laboratory studies pertaining to hepatitis, and the supplier company assured that it was not possible to use it for any other purpose. Despite this, the Committee blocked approval of the application pending the obtainment of further information concerning the uses of the equipment and the institution which would be using it, so that this request is still in suspense.

(b) Denmark submitted a request for supplying children's hospitals in Iraq with heaters, and the Americans asked Denmark what guarantees Denmark had that the equipment might be used elsewhere than in the hospitals to which it was to be supplied (meeting 62, 6 June 1992).

Now we ask, is there any need for comment?

(c) On the basis of the same logic, a request to FAO to supply Iraq with 300 tons of insecticides requested by Iraq for the purpose of aerial spraying to combat agricultural pests has been kept pending owing to an objection by Great Britain, supported by the American representative, as usual, with a view to making sure that the insecticides would not be used for "dual" purposes.

2. Denial on the pretext of enhancing Iraq's industrial infrastructure

The Committee comes to us from time to time with strange justifications and pretexts for denying important, legitimate requests directly connected with the essential needs of the Iraqi population, such as medicine and food. The surprising examples which follow reveal the partiality and lack of objectiveness of the Committee's decisions.

(a) The Sanctions Committee denied a request by Turkey to supply the Iraqi drug manufacturing company at Samarra with the following materials:

1. Rubber tube form Bytyle rubber;

2. Rigged PVC sheet 61,000 tons.

Thus, on the grounds that this might enhance Iraq's industrial infrastructure, the Committee does not want Iraq to engage in manufacture to satisfy some of its pharmaceutical needs, but rather imposes on it the requirement that it should have recourse to international markets in order to satisfy those needs. And here there also begins a new phase of efforts involving the management of sources of financing and the release of frozen assets.

(b) For the same reasons stated above, the Committee rejected a Turkish request for the supply of materials used in the manufacture of the cleaning agents needed for health services, namely:

1. Salium carboxy 500 tons;

2. Caustic soda 1,000 tons;

3. Sodium sulphate 1,000 tons.

(c) The Committee also denied another request submitted by Turkey for supplying Iraq with 400 tons of activated oil. The argument which it constantly gave was that it feared a revival of the Iraqi industrial infrastructure, as though this went against the Security Council resolutions. In all cases it was the Americans who objected to compliance with the requests.*

(d) The most recent thing which the Committee did to us (at its 71st meeting held on 19 June 1992) was to deny a request submitted by the Moroccan Mission for the Moroccan company Bata to supply the State Leather Manufacturing Corporation, the largest shoe manufacturer in Iraq, with raw material for leather manufacture. The pretext was the same, namely that this might enhance the infrastructure of the Iraqi economy (sic). Has the obstructiveness of the American and British delegates reached such a shameful pitch?

3. <u>The question of Iraqi currency impounded in Great Britain</u>

The Central Bank of Iraq concluded an agreement with De La Rue, the British banknote-printing company, for the printing of banknotes in small denominations, namely 400 million banknotes in the 5-dinar denomination and

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* Committee meeting (70) held on 11 May 1992.

400 million banknotes in the 10-dinar denomination, for a total value estimated at 5.5 million Iraqi dinars. The company has in fact completed printing of one quarter of that quantity and is ready to ship them to Iraq, but the shipment has been stopped on the pretext that it is in violation of the resolutions concerning sanctions.

Iraq presented a request to the Sanctions Committee in order to import the banknotes, because of the pressing increased need for them, for the population suffered due to the shortage of small denominations in circulation, which became a further technical cause of price increases. Citizens were forced to buy more than they needed or more than they could afford; furthermore, their budgets were rendered more complicated, for they increased their demand without any real reason. In addition, this situation led to selling at higher prices in order to avoid the problems of giving change in small denominations. Another group that was affected by the shortage of small currency denominations was children, when making their small purchases. All the humanitarian difficulties that arose from the shortage of monetary liquidity did not, in the eyes of Great Britain, warrant granting approval for the export of the banknotes to Iraq.

The British company requested Iraq to designate the international humanitarian organizations operating in Iraq as mediators with a view to obtaining official reports issued by them indicating in clear terms the difficulties that the Iraqi people were experiencing due to this problem, in order to enable it to apply to the British Government for export authorization.

The Office of the Coordinator of the United Nations Programme in Baghdad was approached, in connection with its contacts and consultations with the international humanitarian organizations.

This issue is still unresolved. The suffering of the Iraqi citizens still continues owing to British obstinacy and the hostile spirit in which Great Britain deals with the needs of the Iraqi people.

4. Freezing of the assets of joint companies

The embargo was not confined to Iraqi companies alone, but included all companies in which Iraq was a participant. The following are some examples:

(a) Assets belonging to the Arab Antibiotics Manufacturing Company were frozen despite the fact that the anticipated production of that company, which was in the final stages of being set up, was directly connected with the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people, inasmuch as it is a pharmaceutical company. Its activity was the object of a total freeze, and its assets are still frozen at the Bank of New York in the United States of America. All the efforts it has made with the Sanctions Committee have been fruitless.

(b) Another flagrant example in this connection is the Arab Industrial Investment Company, a joint-stock company having its principal place of business in Baghdad whose shareholders are Saudi Arabia, Libya, Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Yemen and Iraq, had deposited its assets, amounting to $54.66 million, in the Rafidayn Bank, which in turn deposited them with the Bank of New York, and the American authorities froze them along with other assets. This question has been brought before the Sanctions Committee, which has not taken any measures to unfreeze non-Iraqi assets. It is worth noting, however, that the company's activity involves participation in the capital of existing companies and the establishment, setting up, financing and owning of industrial enterprises and companies in the Member States and in other States. These two examples are intended to show the arbitrary manner in which the Sanctions Committee examines matters brought before it irrespective of the extent to which they relate to Iraq.

5. Frozen assets at the Bank for International Settlements in Basel

The examples included under this heading are perhaps the most telling regarding the unfair treatment of Iraq at the hands of the three permanent members (United States, Great Britain and France). In short, Iraq has balances with the Bank for International Settlements in Basel which were frozen, along with other Iraqi assets, pursuant to Security Council resolution 661 (1991). The Chairman of the Sanctions Committee sent a letter to the States concerned, one of which is Switzerland, in order to obtain the unfreezing of Iraqi assets for the purposes defined in paragraph 10 of resolution 687 (1991), i.e., foodstuffs, drugs and other essential humanitarian needs. The Bank for International Settlements, however, refused, on a number of pretexts, to unfreeze the assets. It should be pointed out that the Bank is more an international institution than a bank and is managed by the governors of the Central Banks of several European States. Consequently, unfreezing the funds is not the task of Switzerland but rather of the Bank's Board of Governors. Thus, the Bank is being pushed by some members (France, the United States and Great Britain in particular), and this is causing the Iraqi people severe distress due to the fact that it is deprived of its funds, which it needs in order to satisfy its essential humanitarian needs. Furthermore, this position must be deemed to be in clear violation of the directive mentioned above, issued by the Security Council Committee. The Committee has failed to take a serious stand regarding the interpretation of its directive issued on 16 May 1991.

III. Economic and humanitarian impact of the sanctions

Everyone is now aware of the extent of the material and human damage and destruction that has befallen the Iraqi people, in particular of the effects on more vulnerable groups.

In spite of the exceptions provided for in Security Council resolutions 661 (1990) and 687 (1991), covering materials and supplies necessary to meet essential humanitarian needs, the purposes of the Sanctions Committee at the practical level are incompatible with these exceptions. A request is acceded

to or rejected on the basis of the convictions of this or that Committee member, and these convictions are formed basically in accordance with the obvious political criteria and motives of the States that dominate the Security Council, without any concern for the urgent and pressing humanitarian needs that are increasing daily and the effects of which are becoming apparent in children and old people.

As a result of the lack of foodstuffs and health materials and the materials and equipment necessary to operate vital facilities that fall within the category of humanitarian services, the situation of the majority of Iraq's population is worsening daily. The matter falls within the framework of an cohesive chain of material and humanitarian breakdowns that will ultimately cause an increase in the suffering of the more vulnerable groups, since the steady rise in prices, the steady decline in individual income value, the lack of foodstuffs and the deterioration of health conditions have had serious humanitarian and environmental reverberations on the society as a whole.

The impact of the decision of the Sanctions Committee may be divided into two parts:

1. Economic impact of the aggression and the sanctions

In today's economy, there is a strong interrelationship between the various productive and service economic sectors. There is mutual reliance among these production facilities, not to mention the internal cohesion inside each sector itself. Therefore, when some economic sectors, such as the industrial and agricultural sectors, were gravely affected, because of the lack of congruity between production and spare parts requirements. that had a serious impact on service sectors such as health, education and distribution.

As we know, the sanctions were prior to the military aggression, and it can therefore be said, on the basis of the subsequent conjecture of events, that a significant part of the hostile military effort was designed to compound the effect of the economic embargo. Thus, the evil purpose and despicable intentions were aimed at extending the embargo until the essential needs of the Iraqi people, such as foods and medicines and directly and indirectly related items, became protracted. That is in addition to the resulting deterioration of the means of satisfying them, owing to the economic, social and environmental impact on all social strata throughout rural and urban Iraq.

The halting of commodity and service imports directly paralysed the economic production and service sectors. This emerged as a grave deterioration of production imputs such as raw materials, semi-manufactures, spare parts and technical expertise. That led to a decline and a deterioration in production standards in those sectors and even a halting of production in some sectors.

Of course, meeting the local market need in any economy in the world is achieved through the local market or imports or both. Because there were no imports and production was halted in many cases and levels declined in many others with regard both to quantity and quality for the above-mentioned reasons, it was necessary to turn towards the world market to find a substitute for those goods and services.

However, ensuring the importation of those goods and services came up against two main obstacles, namely:

1. Financing;

2. Blocking because of the sanctions.

(a) Financing

One of the results of the sanctions was that Iraqi assets and funds were frozen in foreign banks. Since Iraq does not usually keep significant sums inside the country and most of its assets in gold and foreign currency are deposited in foreign banks to earn interest and for investment and to finance import contracts, it was deprived of the possibility of using its funds to cover the import of its requirements. Thus, the alternative is the resumption of oil exportation, which would provide, obviously, the necessary funds for those imports. The decisions of some of the members of the Security Council (three of the permanent members, in particular) stood in the way and continued to do so, without arriving at an agreement on the resumption of oil export to meet Iraq's need of food, medicines and other essential humanitarian needs.

(b) Blocking

The Committee, represented by its two Western members and for obvious political motives, has persisted in denying any request for the supply of goods to Iraq, by obstructing the supply thereof where there is a source of financing* or by blocking the source of financing where the import does not require the Committee's approval, as in the case of simple notification for foodstuffs and medicines. Accordingly, moving foodstuffs and medicines from the no-objection category to the simple notification category by no means signifies that, as may seem apparent, it is possible to import those items when the sources of financing for them are blocked.

Since it was not possible to maintain the freeze on those funds within the framework of the United Nations, the question of their release was consigned to bilateral relations. Here once again we find that those measures have led, from the practical viewpoint, to the activation of the political factor in enforcing release or freeze. The effects of that can be imagined

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* Iraq might sometimes be able to secure agreement for the supply of foodstuffs and medicaments by term payment at high cost.

when we realize that most of Iraq's deposits are in those States that have adopted a policy hostile to Iraq's requests in the Committee (the three permanent members in particular).

1. In these abnormal circumstances, market forces have begun to interact rapidly, leading to extremely serious consequences economically and socially.

2. The lack of hard currency at the State and private sector levels caused the latter to use local currency to finance its imports. This led to a decline in the value of this currency outside the country and a fall in its domestic purchasing power.

3. The economy has entered a stage of anarchy, because of a cumulative inflation rate, which is difficult to cope with and the sanctions and the economic embargo. It is, indeed, impossible. Inflationary pressures may blast any economy even in the absence of such abnormal circumstances.

4. Some government measures aimed at lightening the burden on some sectors of the society - low-income groups - such as pay increases for white- and blue-collar workers have increased relative pressures and consequent distortions in the prices of goods and services and production costs.

5. The new non-covered monetary issuance has led to an increased decline in the national currency. The monetary authorities were forced to do this because of the encouragement of smuggling and bank looting in the governorate following the foreign aggression and treachery. In addition, there is the large amount of counterfeit currency pumped into the local market from abroad. In this regard, the Sanctions Committee did not accede to the release of Iraqi currency blocked in Great Britain, thereby contributing to the suffering of the civilian population by exposing them to an economic stranglehold.

6. The halting or decline of production has led to widespread unemployment, particularly in the private sector, not to mention the social effects of unemployment, even in the public sector. That phenomenon has brought losses to production sites, which are obliged to pay wages without achieving corresponding production.

7. Thus, serious phenomena have begun to accumulate and be compounded in the social structure of Iraq, such as bribery, theft, smuggling and speculation. We find that the sanctions are directed towards the destruction of the Iraqi society with prior intent and by means of a well-considered organized effort, all for political motives that are inconsistent with the values, customs and laws on which human society, past and present, is based.

8. Some of the production facilities which are linked by contracts with countries abroad and which are exposed to overwhelming losses as a result of the halt of production or the deterioration of some means of production owing to lack of maintenance, spare parts or production inputs cannot seek

compensation for damage according to the logic of the resolutions of the Security Council itself (paragraph 29 of resolution 687 (1991)).

9. Wear and maintenance. The Iraqi productive structure is exposed to a vast cumulative impact that is consuming it because of the lack of spare parts and maintenance, for such items are banned under the embargo. The long-term effects of such cumulative attrition will make Iraq an importer of everything it needs from abroad, which means the destruction of the national revolution and a dark future for coming generations.

The effects include the following:

1. Financial investment losses, the halting of financial transactions, the freezing of Iraqi assets abroad and Iraq's incapacity to pay the interest on its previous debts, leading to the imposition of unjustified interest on arrears. The resultant increase in the external debt burden is compounding the economic problems that will face Iraqi society as long as the embargo continues. In addition there is the interest on term payments to which Iraq resorts because its assets are frozen and it is impossible to utilize them. The same is true with regard to the interest charged for late payment on letters of credit.

2. The indirect effects that have arisen or may arise from the economic embargo cannot be estimated at this time, because they are not confined to financial losses and expenses due to lost opportunities but depend also on how long the sanctions and the embargo will last.

3. The dangerous thing with regard to this negative impact is its cumulative nature, i.e., its quantitive increase and the extent of its sectoral scope. Hence, the difficulty or the impossibility of treating it, particularly since it is leading to fundamental structural defects in the economic and social fabric.

2. <u>Impact of the aggression on the humanitarian situation in Iraq</u>

The reports of United Nations agencies and independent non-governmental relief bodies point to the phenomenon of an alarming rise in prices, particularly the prices of foodstuffs, medicines and vital and essential civilian requirements. At a time when the Government under a ration-card system is providing sufficient to meet one third of the individual's requirement of food items only, at low prices, the individual's other food requirements are met through the domestic market at steadily rising prices. The price of flour has risen 29 times, that of rice 26 times, that of cooking oil 15 times, that of sugar 29 times, that of powdered milk 19 times, that of legumes 37 times, that of fish 5 times, that of meat 4 times, that of eggs 13 times, that of tea 24 times and that of domestic cheese 6 times.

The prices of domestically produced vegetables and fruit are also constantly increasing. This increase in prices has greatly affected the purchasing power of the majority of the Iraqi people, particularly among low-income groups, including pregnant women and children. This constitutes 50 per cent of the total population. This figure may be broken down as follows:

Pregnant women	1 000 000
Children under 1 year of age	750 000
Children under 5 years of age	3 500 000
Children between 5 and 12 years of age	4 500 000

The war has destroyed all the electric power stations, water purification installations and drainage networks. In spite of all the efforts made to repair these systems, the lack of spare parts resulting from the embargo has made the operation of these stations on a regular basis extremely difficult. The International Committee of the Red Cross, in a report submitted to the Security Council, stated that of all five water purification units in Basra, only one was operational.

UNDRO report No. 26 indicated that 40 per cent of water samples in Basra were polluted, and this is true also of the neighbouring governorates. The failure of waste water treatment centres and the facilities of the waste water network has led to drainage of non-treated or polluted water directly into water sources, that, in turn, has directly and considerably affected draw-off points for purification projects. The drainage of untreated water has led to the pollution of agricultural land and overflowing drains in residential areas. In some governorates, this has led to the formation of swamps and pools of brackish water that attracts swarms of insects. Everyone is aware of the extent of the danger lurking in such a situation and its alarming effects on the health and humanitarian situation.

This grave deterioriation in the water and food sectors will certainly lead to broader deterioriation in the health field, which will give rise to increasing needs for medicines and all kinds of medical requirements and equipment. The situation which the Iraqi people is suffering in the health field is extremely tragic, inasmuch as all the medical contributions of humanitarian organizations and bodies meet only a small portion of the actual needs of drugs and medical services.

Iraq's medicines budget for 1990 totalled $350 million, allocated for the purchase of 1,200 types of miscellaneous drugs, in addition to $150 million for procurement of other medical requirements. This figure does not include medical equipment and apparatus which Iraq provided to its hospitals. That equipment relied basically on sophisticated technology that Iraq imported from numerous establishments throughout the world and most of which was destroyed, particularly in the governorates where deception and treachery prevailed. The sanctions against Iraq have extended to the import of equipment and spare parts for it. Much equipment has now become unfit for use because of lack of spare parts or even because of the lack of the prerequisites for its

operation, such as X-ray plates, laboratory scanners, inks and even paper requirements. Without going into the details of health needs, the following table shows clearly the danger threatening the health situation in Iraq.

Disease	1989	1990	1991
		Number of cases	
Infantile paralysis	10	56	186
Angina	96	168	511
Whooping cough	368	489	1 537
Measles	5 715	7 524	11 358
German measles	514	693	2 848
Puerperal tetanus	42	393	936
Tetanus	32	87	933
Pneumonia	6 612	11 713	235 329
Mumps	9 639	15 962	22 718
Cholera	0	0	1 217
Typhoid	1 812	2 240	17 524
Giardiasis	73 412	1 134 222	501 391
Amoebic dysentery	19 615	32 957	58 311
Viral hepatitis	1 816	3 228	11 135
Meningitis	2 559	1 810	5 792
Domestic malaria	3 428	3 924	7 105
Baghdad rash	1 829	1 894	8 233
Black-water fever	491	576	3 713
Haemorrhagic fever	38	42	196
Malta fever	372	512	2 223
Ankylostomiasis	370	406	1 787
Scabies	0	198	1 892
Hydrophobia	25	37	256

In addition, the infant mortality rate has increased enormously. Whereas the total number of deaths of infants under the age of five totalled 3,560 in 1990, 27,473 children died in 1991. The statistics of the Ministry of Health show 8,081 deaths of children under the age of five for the months of January and February only in 1992.

In addition to infant mortality, large numbers of Iraqis suffering from heart and kidney diseases, high blood pressure, diabetes and other non-contagious diseases have died because of the non-availability of medicines and other requirements for their appropriate treatment. The relief bodies do not provide such drugs and requirements, on the grounds that they do not come within the category of emergency needs. The medical sector's ordeal in Iraq at the present time is an ordeal of a special kind, because this sector relies basically, first, on imports from abroad and, secondly, on the state of the other sectors, the suppliers of food, water and environmental hygiene.

Environmental impact of the aggression and the sanctions

The environment in Iraq has been greatly affected by the war and the embargo, in addition to the strikes against electric generating installations, water purification installations, drainage facilities and pumping stations. The non-availability of preventive drugs and the impossibility of repairing these facilities makes the danger greater day by day and constitutes an increasing threat to public health and the health of the children primarily.

In addition, there is the accumulation of waste and the difficulty of transporting it to hygienic purification locations because of the lack of the necessary spare parts for operating the vehicles and trucks assigned to it. This has, naturally, led to an increase in the increased presence of insects carrying communicable and contagious diseases.

The immense scale of the military operations, particularly in the desert areas of a soft sandy nature, has affected the nature of the soft sandy soil and disrupted its surface, with consequent climatic effects that have had a considerable impact on health conditions.

The process of the breakdown in humanitarian services will end with the disaster leading to the collapse of the health sector. As all are aware, medicine is not the only treatment to save children or other vulnerable classes. It is preceded by a chain of essential humanitarian needs that must be met.

Conclusion

It appears from the aforegoing that the work of the Sanctions Committee and the way it performs the tasks entrusted to it under Security Council resolution 661 (1990) are oriented towards the obstruction or rejection of any request by Iraq that enters into the area of civilian essential needs or a humanitarian nature, which has led to the increasing danger faced by vulnerable categories and the Iraqi people as a result of the deterioration of the economic situation.

The role of the Sanctions Committee in strengthening the terms of the embargo against Iraq is clear from the following:

1. The nature of the procedure followed by the Committee in its work makes it difficult to respond promptly to Iraq's humanitarian requests. In addition to the extension of the hegemony and control of the States dominating the Security Council to the Sanctions Committee, in accordance with well-known political motives, the system of voting adopted by the Committee hinders the adoption of decisions and leads to procrastination on the pretext of seeking further information and clarifications. Moreover, the exclusion of Iraq, which is the main party concerned with its decisions, from the Committee's discussions constitutes another element aimed at obstructing approval of any request submitted by Iraq.

2. The Sanctions Committee justifies its refusal of many requests by alleging that the use of such materials or equipment might have a dual nature, and the Committee has worked on this basis with requests relating to medicines, medical necessities and insecticides, which are materials that cannot be other than of a purely humanitarian nature.

3. Similarly, the Sanctions Committee justifies its rejection of requests within the category of purely humanitarian necessities by alleging that such necessities come within the category that might enhance the Iraqi industrial structure, while the Committee members know full well that such materials are of a humanitarian service nature and that their availability is essential to the provision of humanitarian health and food services, which constitutes primary elements in the chain of essential humanitarian needs of any civilized community.

4. Non-facilitation of the release of Iraqi funds, which constitute one of the sources of Iraq's financing for humanitarian needs. Although the subject of expenditure on Iraqi humanitarian needs has been left to the decisions of States that hold frozen assets, these States are subject to political effects and pressures that obstruct the release of Iraqi funds.

This is in addition to the obstacles that the great Powers have placed before resumption of the export of Iraqi oil to finance their urgent humanitarian needs. The procedure of the Sanctions Committee and the arguments and justifications that it puts forward in order to reject Iraq's requests has led to the exacerbation of the economic and health situation and an increase in the incidence of disease, particularly among children.

The Sanctions Committee ignores the fact that humanitarian needs are in reality a cohesive chain of humanitarian services, plus materials and equipment which extends from the sectors of electricity, agriculture, water, sanitation, medicines and health and medical requirements, food, clothes and other educational and living requirements, and that, without attention to these needs, there can be no talk of easing the sanctions or lifting the embargo in respect of necessities that come within the framework of essential civilian humanitarian needs laid down in Security Council resolutions and are clearly indicated in the reports of United Nations missions and reports of the humanitarian organizations that have visited Iraq in recent times.